



## CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY LAUNCHES “CAL@170,” ONLINE COLLECTION OF STORIES CELEBRATING 170 YEARS OF STATEHOOD

**170 stories about California’s past and present reflect the state’s unique character**

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**[Sacramento, Calif.]** Today, on the 170th anniversary of California’s becoming the 31st state in the union, the Golden State faces fires, protests and a pandemic. That’s nothing new – just check out the stories on the California State Library’s new [Cal@170 website](#).

In celebration of this milestone, the State Library is collecting and sharing 170 original stories that describe who—and what—California is. The topics are as diverse as the state itself, and include arts and culture, civil rights, people and places, innovation, sports, and law and politics. [Cal@170](#) includes stories about natural disasters, massacres and riots, but there are even more accounts of the compassion, resilience, ingenuity and relentless insistence on taking the “im” out of impossible that Californians have shown since Sept. 9, 1850.

“Harry Truman says ‘the only new thing in the world is the history you don’t know,’ and to appreciate the grit, innovation and imagination at the heart of California you’ve got to see where we’ve been and what we’ve come through,” said Greg Lucas, California State Librarian. “California continues to evolve. We’ve learned and grown stronger together from our past mistakes, and those are part of [Cal@170](#) as well.” So far, the [Cal@170 website](#) features 100 stories. Another 70 will be added over the next few months, including submissions by California civic leaders, authors and historians. The State Library invites all Californians to contribute a story that defines what California means to them, just as Californians have been contributing to the library’s [COVID Diaries](#), a community archive about life during COVID-19.

Four selected photos from Cal@170:



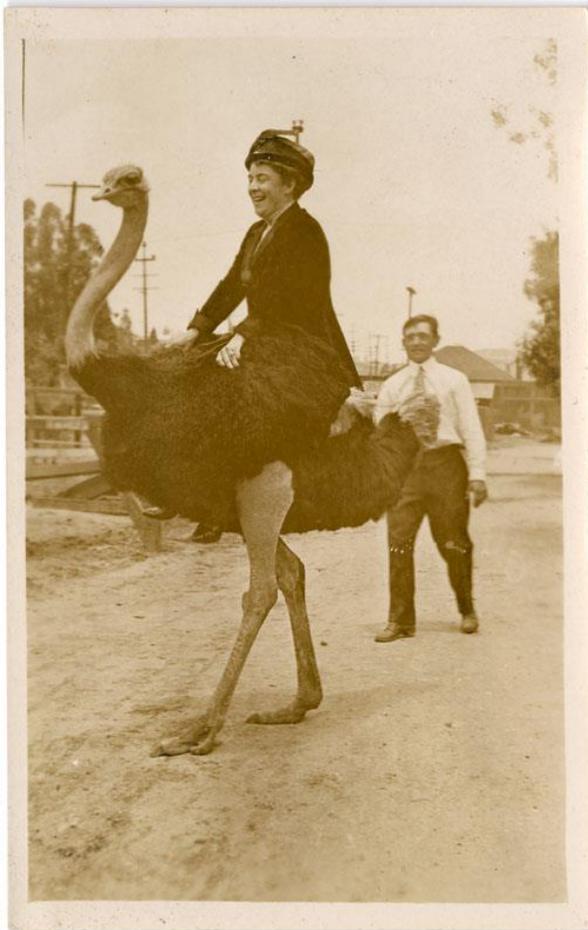
General Mariano Vallejo [2012-0379] (Image courtesy of the California History Section, California State Library)



Che-na-wah Weitch-ah-wah — Lucy Thompson, 1916. [2013-1726] (Image courtesy of the California History Section, California State Library)



U.S. Navy's Macon airship [2007-0252] (Image courtesy of the California History Section, California State Library)



Woman on Ostrich [2014-4858] (Image courtesy of the California History Section, California State Library)

**About the State Library:** Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of documents from and about the state's rich history, ranging from books, maps, miners' diaries, newspapers, and periodicals to photographs, paintings and posters. The State Library also holds federal and state publications, is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library, and serves as the lead state agency for library-related services throughout California. [State Library website](#)

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